

REMARKS

The above amendment is being filed after the date of filing an appeal pursuant to § 41.31(a)(1) through (a)(3) and prior to the date a brief is filed pursuant to § 41.37. The application is therefore eligible for amendment under the provisions of 37 CFR § 41.33, and as further detailed in MPEP 1206 (I). The content of the amendments satisfy the limitations of permissible amendments defined therein, as follows.

The amendments rewrite dependent claim 28 in independent form by *“rewriting an independent claim to incorporate therein all the subject matter of a dependent claim, canceling the dependent claim and in conjunction therewith changing the dependency of claims which had depended from the dependent claim being canceled to the amended independent claim that incorporates therein all the subject matter of the now canceled dependent claim”* (see MPEP 1206 (I)).

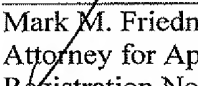
Thus, amended independent claim 15 now incorporates all limitations of dependent claim 28, while dependent claim 28 itself has been canceled.

In the Final Rejection of August 9, 2007, claim 28 stands objected to as dependent on a rejected claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The above amendment is thus believed to render amended independent claim 15, which now includes all limitations of claim 28, allowable, together with all the remaining claims 16-27 which depend therefrom.

In anticipation of an allowance, the Applicant respectfully requests that withdrawn claims 20-27 be rejoined with the allowable base claim.

The Applicant believes that the above amendment renders moot all grounds of rejection of record and thus renders the application in condition for immediate allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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